

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated July 5, 2005. Claims 2, 5 to 9, 11, 14 to 18, 20 and 21 are pending in the application, of which Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 20 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment accorded Applicant's representative during the September 28, 2005 telephonic interview.

During the interview, the Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed the art of record, particularly U.S. Patent No. 6,021,231 (Miyatake). Applicant's representative argued that Miyatake does not disclose the claimed features of designating an image corresponding to a start scene and a time length (or number of scenes) from the start scene included in a moving picture, and extracting moving pictures and combining them into a single moving picture.

Agreement was reached between the Examiner and Applicant's representative during the interview. In particular, the Examiner agreed that Miyatake does not disclose the claimed feature of combining moving pictures which have been extracted into a single moving picture. However, the Examiner did not necessarily agree that Miyatake does not disclose designating an image corresponding to a start scene and a time length (or number of scenes) from the start scene included in a moving picture.

In addition, the Examiner indicated that the final Office Action would be withdrawn once a written response based on the agreement reached during the interview was filed. Accordingly, this Response and the comments presented below have been

prepared based on the substance of the interview.

Turning to the Office Action, Claims 2, 5 to 9, 11, 14 to 18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,021,231 (Miyatake); and Claims 2, 5 to 9, 11, 14 to 18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0012521 (Nagasaka) in view of Miyatake. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention generally concerns image processing for processing a moving picture having scene-change information. An image is designated that corresponds to a start scene that is the object of a search and time length (or the number of scenes) from the start scene included in a moving picture. A comparison is made with a scene-change frame obtained by referring to the scene-change information, and the designated image. Moving pictures are extracted, each of which has scenes of the time length (or the number of scenes) and includes a scene corresponding to the designated image, based upon a result of the comparison. In addition, each of the extracted moving pictures are combined into a single moving picture.

Referring specifically to the claims, each of independent Claims 6 and 7 are directed to an apparatus, each of independent Claims 15 and 16 are directed to a method, and each of independent Claims 20 and 21 are directed to a computer-readable memory.

Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides for (i) designating a time length (or number of scenes) from a start scene included in a moving picture, and (ii) extracting moving pictures and combining them into a single moving picture. The applied references of Miyatake and Nagasaka are not seen to disclose or suggest these features.

As noted above with reference to the interview, it was agreed that Miyatake does not disclose or suggest feature (ii), namely extracting moving pictures and combining them into a single moving picture.

Turning to feature (i), by virtue of designating a time length (or number of scenes) from a start scene included in a moving picture, moving pictures can be extracted from the start scene for the designated time length (or number of scenes). For example, for a 30-minute TV program having 50 different scenes, a time length of 30 minutes can be designated for extraction of 30 minutes of moving pictures from the start scene.

As understood by Applicant, Miyatake is seen to disclose a video retrieval method in which representative frames of an enquiry video can be selected, along with time lengths. See Miyatake, column 6, line 58 to column 7, line 17. The time lengths represent times "between representative frames". See Miyatake, column 5, lines 57 and 58.

As such, Miyatake is seen to disclose that given a selected time length, only a scene having the designated time length can be searched. For example, for a designated time length of 30 seconds in Miyatake, only a scene having the 30-second time length can be searched, while a scene having 15 seconds or 45 seconds cannot be searched.

Accordingly, Miyatake is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) designating a time length (or number of scenes) from a start scene included in a moving picture, and (ii) extracting moving pictures and combining them into a single moving picture.

In addition, Nagasaka has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Miyatake.


Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 20 and 21 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied

references.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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